

set forth herein. In the formulation of these regulations due regard has been given to the factors and standards set forth in section 7(e)(3)(b) of the Act.

(b) Where a thrift or savings plan is combined in a single program (whether in one or more documents) with a plan or trust for providing profit-sharing payments to employees, or with a plan or trust for providing old age, retirement, life, accident or health insurance or similar benefits for employees, contributions made by the employer pursuant to such thrift or savings plan may be excluded from the regular rate if the plan meets the requirements of the regulation in this part and the contributions made for the other purposes may be excluded from the regular rate if they meet the tests set forth in regulations. Part 549, or the tests set forth in Interpretative Bulletin, part 778 of this chapter, §§ 778.214 and 778.215, as the case may be.

**§ 547.1 Essential requirements for qualifications.**

(a) A “bona fide thrift or savings plan” for the purpose of section 7(e)(3)(b) of the Act is required to meet all the standards set forth in paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section and must not contain the disqualifying provisions set forth in § 547.2.

(b) The thrift or savings plan constitutes a definite program or arrangement in writing, adopted by the employer or by contract as a result of collective bargaining and communicated or made available to the employees, which is established and maintained, in good faith, for the purpose of encouraging voluntary thrift or savings by employees by providing an incentive to employees to accumulate regularly and retain cash savings for a reasonable period of time or to save through the regular purchase of public or private securities.

(c) The plan specifically shall set forth the category or categories of employees participating and the basis of their eligibility. Eligibility may not be based on such factors as hours of work, production, or efficiency of the employees’ *Provided, however*, That hours of work may be used to determine eligibility of part-time or casual employees.

(d) The amount any employee may save under the plan shall be specified in the plan or determined in accordance with a definite formula specified in the plan, which formula may be based on one or more factors such as the straight-time earnings or total earnings, base rate of pay, or length of service of the employee.

(e) The employer’s total contribution in any year may not exceed 15 percent of the participating employees’ total earnings during that year. In addition, the employer’s total contribution in any year may not exceed the total amount saved or invested by the participating employees during that year: *Provided, however*, That a plan permitting a greater contribution may be submitted to the Administrator and approved by him as a “bona fide thrift or savings plan” within the meaning of section 7(e)(3)(b) of the Act if:

(1) The plan meets all the other standards of this section;

(2) The plan contains none of the disqualifying factors enumerated in § 547.2;

(3) The employer’s contribution is based to a substantial degree upon retention of savings; and

(4) The amount of the employer’s contribution bears a reasonable relationship to the amount of savings retained and the period of retention.

(f) The employer’s contributions shall be apportioned among the individual employees in accordance with a definite formula or method of calculation specified in the plan, which formula or method of calculation is based on the amount saved or the length of time the individual employee retains his savings or investment in the plan: *Provided*, That no employee’s share determined in accordance with the plan may be diminished because of any other remuneration received by him.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1215-0119)

[19 FR 4864, Aug. 3, 1954, as amended at 47 FR 145, Jan. 5, 1982; 71 FR 16666, Apr. 3, 2006]

**§ 547.2 Disqualifying provisions.**

(a) No employee’s participation in the plan shall be on other than a voluntary basis.

(b) No employee’s wages or salary shall be dependent upon or influenced

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by the existence of such thrift or savings plan or the employer's contributions thereto.

(c) The amounts any employee may save under the plan, or the amounts paid by the employer under the plan may not be based upon the employee's hours of work, production or efficiency.

### PART 548—AUTHORIZATION OF ESTABLISHED BASIC RATES FOR COMPUTING OVERTIME PAY

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 7, 52 Stat. 1063, as amended; 29 U.S.C. 207, unless otherwise noted.

#### Subpart A—General Regulations

SOURCE: 20 FR 5679, Aug. 6, 1955, unless otherwise noted.

##### § 548.1 Scope and effect of regulations.

The regulations in this part set forth the requirements for authorization of established basic rates to be used in the computation of overtime pay in accordance with section 7(g)(3) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended. Payment of overtime compensation in accordance with other subsections of section 7 of the Act is explained in part 778 of this title (Interpretative Bulletin on Overtime Compensation).

##### § 548.2 General conditions.

The requirements of section 7 of the Act with respect to the payment of overtime compensation to an employee for a workweek longer than the applicable number of hours established in section 7(a) of the Act, will be met under the provisions of section 7(g)(3) of the Act by payments which satisfy all the following standards:

(a) Overtime compensation computed in accordance with this part and section 7(g)(3) of the Act is paid pursuant to an agreement or understanding arrived at between the employer and the employee or as a result of collective bargaining before performance of the work;

(b) A rate is established by such agreement or understanding as the basic rate to be used in computing overtime compensation thereunder;

(c) The established basic rate is a specified rate or a rate which can be derived from the application of a specified method of calculation;

(d) The established basic rate is a bona fide rate and is not less than the minimum hourly rate required by applicable law;

(e) The basic rate so established is authorized by § 548.3 or is authorized by the Administrator under § 548.4 as being substantially equivalent to the average hourly earnings of the employee, exclusive of overtime premiums, in the particular work over a representative period of time;